2.3.3 CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND STAGING AREA

There would be one approximately 1.2-acre staging area on the project site for construction parking and storage of construction equipment. This staging area would be located outside of the levee setback area and adjacent to the setback levee at LM 3.9L. There is only one staging area that would serve construction needs for both levee setbacks.

The following heavy equipment would likely be used for construction of the setback levee:

- 1 excavator,
- 1 loader (large),1 grader,
- 1 dozer (small),
- 1 scraper (small),
- 4 dump trucks,
- 2 compactors,
- 1 water truck, and
- 2 pickups.

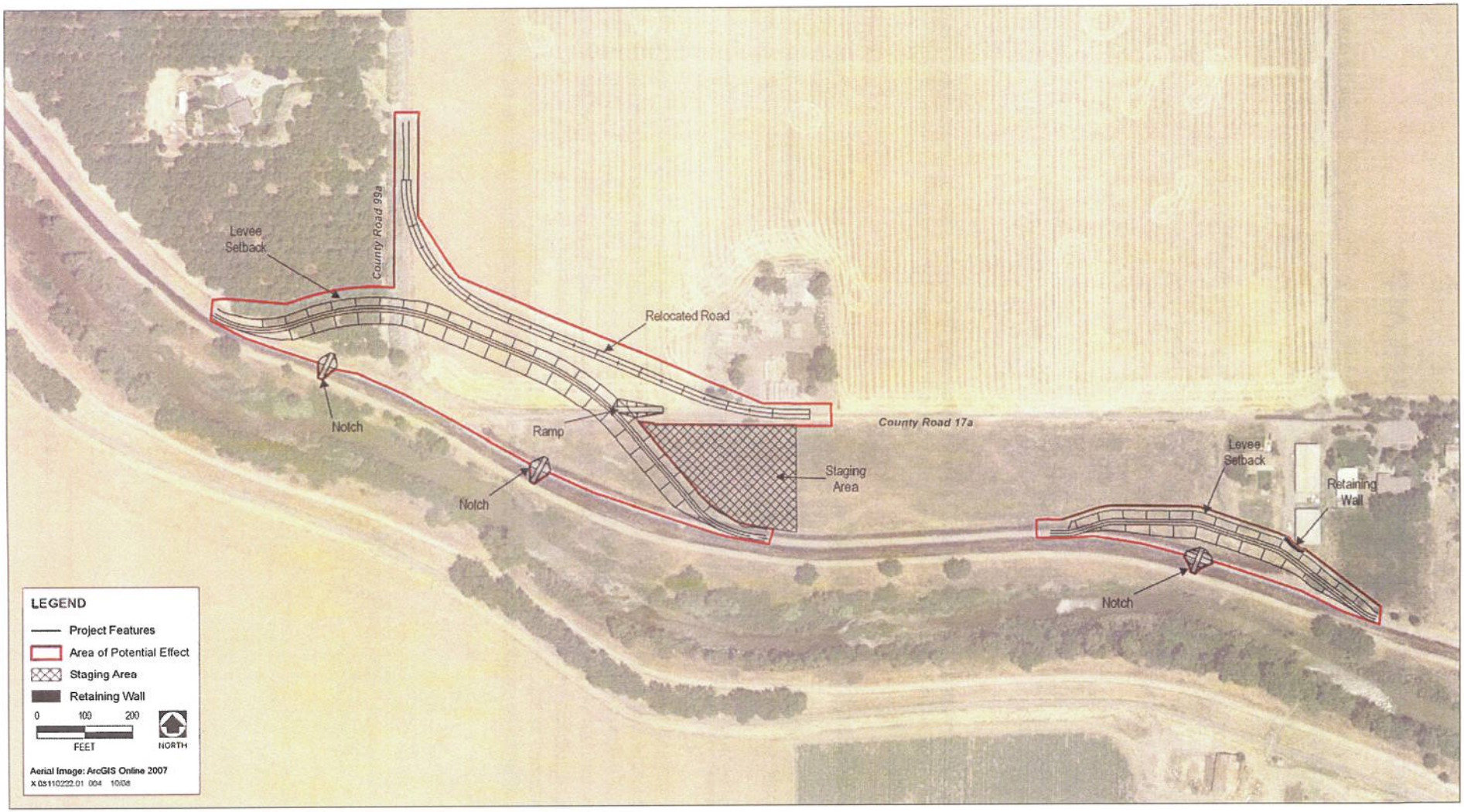
Approximately 3,000 round trips for dump trucks would be needed for construction of the proposed project. In addition, there would be up to 43 additional round trips created by construction workers commuting to and from the project site each day.

2.3.3 CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Construction of the setback levee would take approximately 2 months and would occur between June 15 and October 31, 2009.

2.4 PROJECT OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

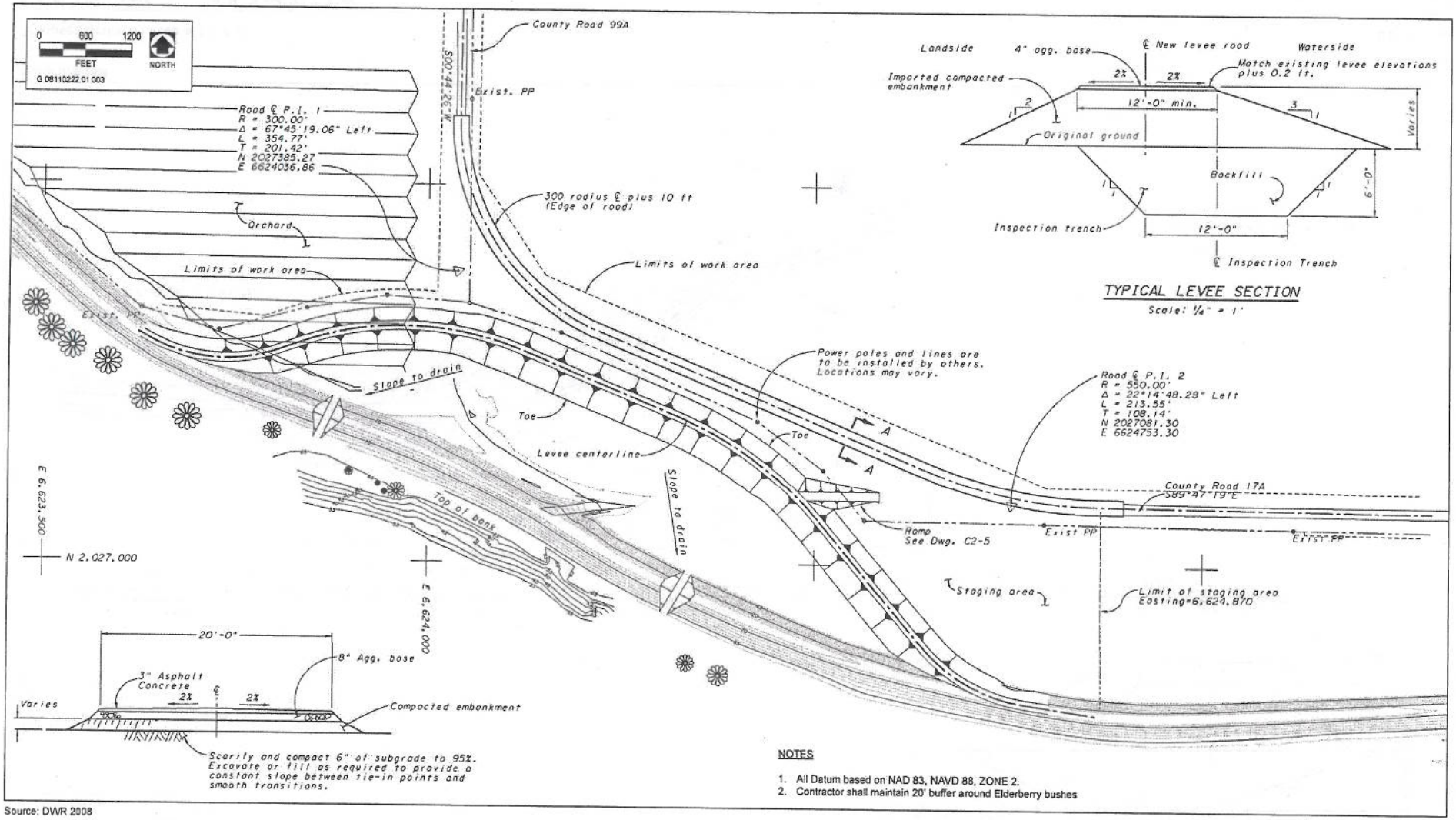
The operation and maintenance of the proposed setback levee would be similar to the operation and maintenance of the existing Cache Creek levees. These levees are maintained by DWR Sacramento Maintenance Yard. Maintenance activities may include, but are not limited to, visual inspections of the levee, burning and/or mowing on the levee to minimize vegetation, and sealing holes in the levees caused by rodents. Following construction of the two proposed setback levees, a total of three notches would be cut into the existing levee, which would no longer be maintained as a project levee. The levee setback area would be seeded with native grasses to prevent establishment of invasive species, and maintenance may be required to ensure proper drainage of the levee setback area.



Source: DWR 2008; EDAW 2008

Project Location and Area of Potential Effect

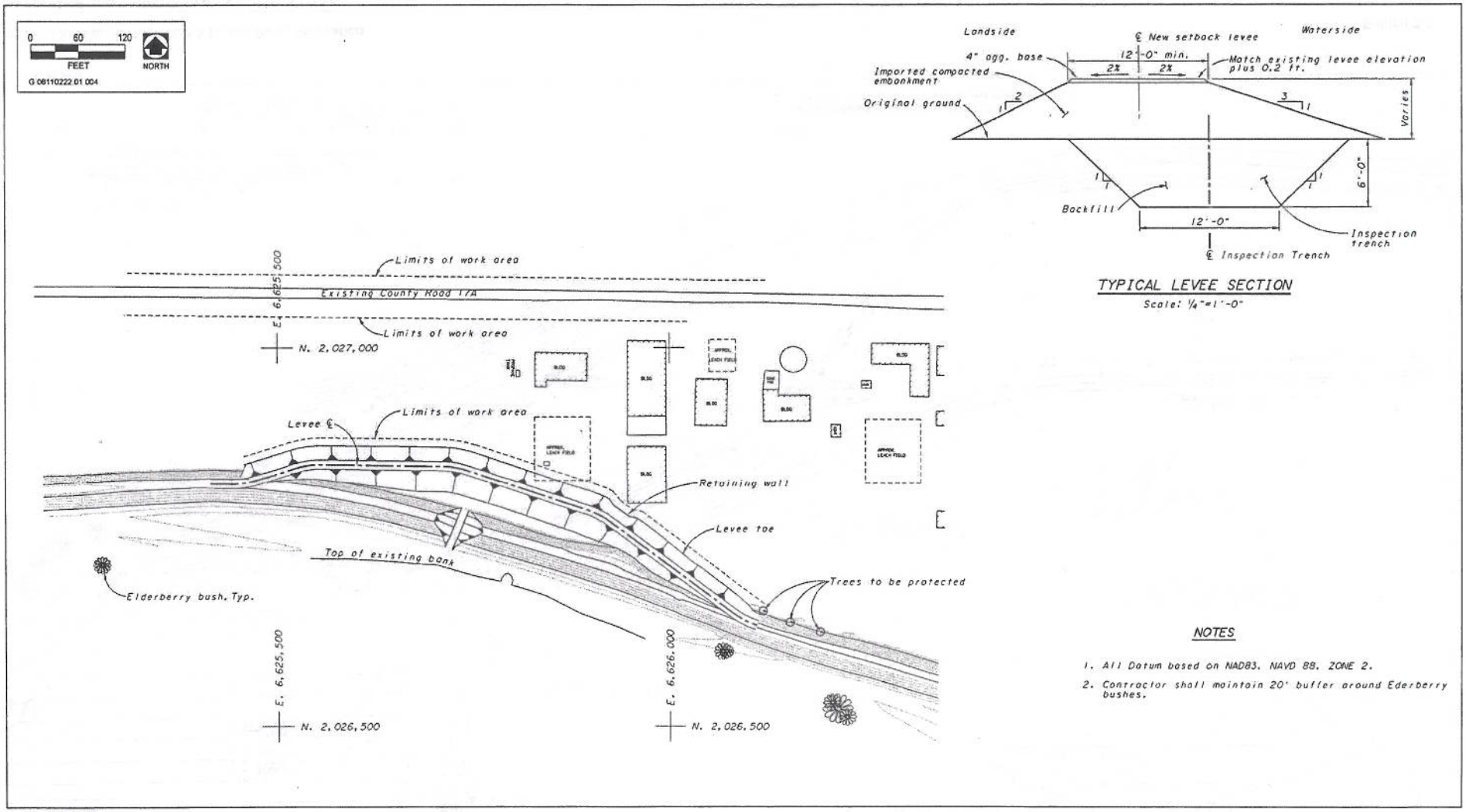
Exhibit 2-2



Source: DWR 2008

Proposed Setback Levee at LM 3.9L and Road Relocation

Exhibit 2-3



Source: DWR 2008

Proposed Setback Levee at LM 4.2L

Exhibit 2-4

3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

PROJECT INFORMATION	
1. Project Title:	Cache Creek North Levee Setback Project – Critical Erosion Site LM 3.9L and LM 4.2L
2. Lead Agency Name and Address:	California Department of Water Resources 2825 Watt Avenue, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95821
3. Contact Person and Phone Number:	Deborah Condon – 916/574-1426
4. Project Location:	Along north bank of Cache Creek at North Levee Mile 3.9L and 4.2L in Yolo County
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	California Department of Water Resources 2825 Watt Avenue, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95821
6. General Plan Designation:	Agriculture (AG)
7. Zoning:	Agricultural Preserve (A-P) and Agricultural Exclusive (A-E)

8. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

The proposed project would consist of two setback levees constructed at critical erosion sites (LM 3.9L and LM 4.2L) along the north bank of Cache Creek. The setback levee at LM 3.9L would be approximately 1,259 feet in length, and would be set back 215 feet from the existing levee. The setback levee at LM 4.2L would be constructed approximately 90 feet north of the existing levee and would be approximately 670 feet in length. The levee would be between 40 and 50 feet wide at the base. Three 10-foot-wide notches would be cut into the existing levee to provide drainage for the levee setback areas. To allow construction of setback levee LM 3.9L, an approximate 1,300 foot-long stretch of County Road 17a would be relocated immediately north of the existing road and would be approximately 1,100 feet long.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)	Agricultural crop lands, orchards, and farmsteads
10: Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (SWPPP)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology / Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation / Traffic
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	☒ None with Mitigation

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☐

I find that although the proposed project **COULD** have a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared. ☒

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. ☐

Deborah Condon EPM I
Signature

October 16, 2008
Date

Deborah Condon
Printed Name

Chief, Environmental Support Section
Title

California Department of Water Resources
Agency

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:

   the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

   the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

AESTHETICS

	THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I.	**Aesthetics. Would the project:**				
	a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
	d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

This section analyzes the potential effects of the proposed project on aesthetic resources and recommends mitigation as necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

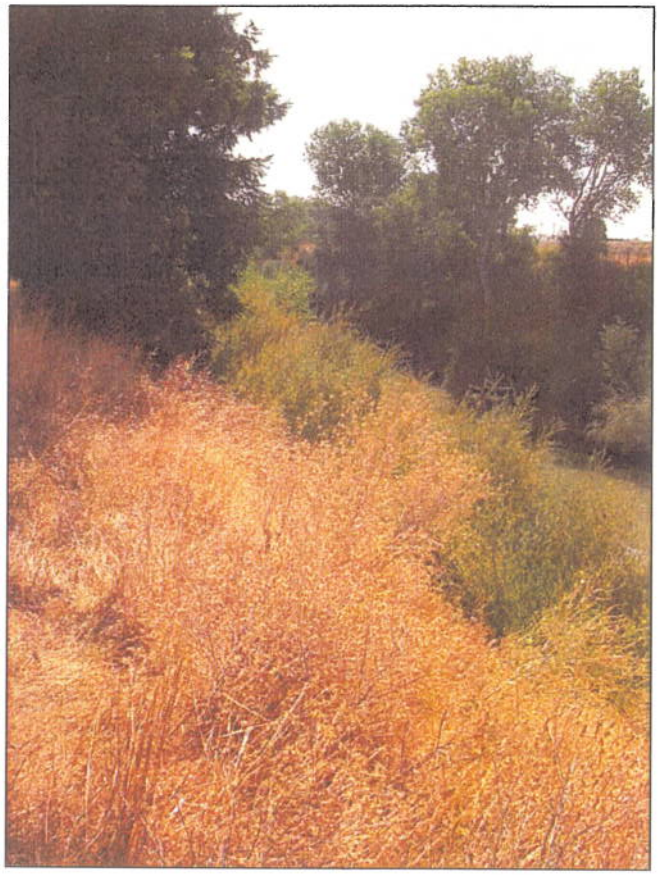
The project site is characterized by agricultural lands and views of Cache Creek (Exhibits 3-1 and 3-2). The creek is vegetated with a mix of native and nonnative vegetation and has steep, eroding banks. Other visual features at the project site include overhead utility lines and rural county roads. There are no State-designated visual resources within or near the project site. Within the project vicinity, State Highway (SH) 16 is eligible for a scenic highway designation from Capay to its intersection with SH 20 (DOT 2008). Nighttime views within the project site are typical of those within an agricultural setting. Sources of nighttime lighting include the city of Woodland, traffic on I-5, and scattered rural residences. The general character of the surrounding area is described below:

- **North:** Lands to the north of the project site consist of plowed agricultural fields and orchards. There are also three residences, private driveways, and County Road 17A and 99A to the north of the project site.
- **South:** To the south of the project site is Cache Creek, which consists mostly of nonnative vegetation and steeply eroding banks. One residence is located across the creek channel on the landside of the south bank levee and across a country road.
- **East:** Lands to the east include plowed agricultural fields. Additional farm residences and structures are to the east of the site.

West: West of the project site are agricultural land and rural residences.

Source: EDAW 2008

Agricultural Lands in the Project Area Looking North From LM 3.9L **Exhibit 3-1**



Source: EDAW 2008

Cache Creek at LM 4.2L Looking Downstream **Exhibit 3-2**

DISCUSSION

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction and operation of the setback levees would not be visible from any scenic vistas. Construction of the setback levees would not substantially change the views within the project area and would not change views from any scenic vistas. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?

No Impact. Although a portion of SH 16 is eligible for a scenic highway designation, construction and operation of the setback levees would not be visible from SH 16 or any other scenic vistas. Although construction of the setback levees would change the views at the project site and vicinity, there are no views of a scenic highway in the project vicinity. Therefore, no impact would occur.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Less-than-Significant Impact. The setback levees and road relocation would be consistent with the existing visual character of the project area and would not substantially alter existing views of the project area. The levee at LM 4.2L would differ slightly from other levees in the project area, including LM 3.9L, by constructing a 23-foot-long retaining wall along the northern edge and eastern portion of the levee. However, the retaining wall would be 3.5-feet tall at its highest point and would only be viewable from specific, localized areas. Therefore, the retaining wall in itself would not substantially change the overall visual character of the setback levee. The setback levees and relocated road would be consistent with the visual character of the project area, which already has views of levees and the road; therefore, the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on visual resources.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. Construction and operation of the setback levees and road relocation would not generate or introduce any new sources of nighttime lighting or glare. Therefore, no impact would occur.

LAND USE AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Land Use and Planning. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
II. Agricultural Resources. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997, as updated) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

This section analyzes the potential effects of the proposed project on land use and agricultural resources and recommends mitigation as necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The land use analysis is based on a review of agricultural characteristics of lands in the project area; it is further based on consideration of actions that could result in adverse physical changes to the environment or degrade physical attributes that historically supported native riparian habitat and that have supported agricultural production in recent times. Agricultural characteristics include lands designated by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) as being of prime, unique, or Statewide importance and exhibit relative values of active

agricultural operations in the study area and local counties. The affected environment with respect to agricultural resources in the project area is described below.

The information presented on land uses and agriculture is primarily based on review of existing documents and other relevant information including:

- Yolo County General Plan (updated) (Yolo County 2002a);
- Yolo County General Plan Update Background Report (Yolo County 2005);
- Yolo County Geographic Information System (Yolo County 2008a);
- Yolo County Municipal Code (Yolo County 2008b);
- Final Off-Channel Mining Plan for Lower Cache Creek (Yolo County 1996);
- Revised Final Cache Creek Resources Management Plan for Lower Cache Creek (Yolo County 2002b);
- DOC, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (DOC 2008a);
- Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Important Farmland Categories (DOC 2008b); and
- 2004 data on Williamson Act contracted lands provided on the DOC Web site (DOC 2008c).

LAND USE

The project site consists of two proposed levee setback sites (Levee Mile 3.9L and Levee Mile 4.2L) located along the landside of the north levee of Cache Creek southeast of the town of Yolo. Levee Mile 3.9 (LM 3.9L) is located where County Road 99A approaches Cache Creek, and Levee Mile 4.2 (LM 4.2L) is located approximately one-quarter mile to the east near county Road 17A. Both sites are immediately adjacent to the existing levee.

The agricultural fields at LM 3.9L contain orchards and row crops, as shown from aerial photographs. Agricultural fields at LM 4.2L appear to be in fallow condition. The developed portion of the project site consists of the intersection of County Road 99A and 17A that enters the project site from the north and east. On the waterside of the existing levee (south of both project sites), remnant patches of riparian forest grow on the upper banks of the creek. Lands to the south of the project site are characterized by agricultural fields and row crops.

Yolo County includes the cities of Davis, West Sacramento, Woodland, and Winters, as well as the unincorporated communities of Capay, Clarksburg, Dunnigan, Esparto, Guinda, Knights Landing, Madison, Rumsey, Yolo, and Zamora. Yolo County and its cities are part of the six-county region, which is encompassed by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and also includes the counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yuba. In the larger geographic sense, the valley portion of Yolo County is part of the Sacramento Valley, which when combined with the San Joaquin Valley makes up the Central Valley of California (Yolo County 2002a).

The town of Yolo is mostly residential in nature. There is little commercial development, and most of these facilities are related to highway-oriented businesses and agriculture-related industrial operations (Yolo County 2002a).

The project site is currently designated as Agriculture (AG) by the Yolo County General Plan. This land use designation is applied to lands best suited for agriculture, and serves to preserve them from the encroachment of nonagricultural uses. The Agriculture designation is intended to include lands in contracted agricultural preserves and Farmland Security Zones, or lands suitable for such use. Uses approved on lands in agricultural preserves or Farmland Security Zones must be consistent and compatible with the provisions of State law and the Yolo County ordinance.

Examples of uses that are considered appropriate under the Agriculture designation include, but are not limited to, growing and harvesting field crops, grain, and hay crops; growing and harvesting fruit and nut trees, vines, and vegetables; wildlife preserves; growing and harvesting forest resources; pasture and grazing land; animal raising